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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Irrigation association honored with Director's Citation for service to agriculture

CLALLAM COUNTY – The Sequim-Dungeness Valley Agricultural Water Users Association was recently recognized by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) for its efforts to reduce agricultural water use from the Dungeness River.

WSDA Director Valoria Loveland presented the Director's Citation Award, one of the top honors in Washington's agricultural community, for the association's efforts to conserve water in the area.

The association was formed in 1989 and is made up of four irrigation districts and three private water companies. Since its formation, the association has reduced its water consumption from the Dungeness River by 50 percent.

"This effort shows that water management and agriculture make good partners," Loveland said. "Conservation and sustainability are intertwined and help to make Washington farmers recognized leaders in environmental stewardship."

The effort also received praise from Gov. Gary Locke during a recent tour of the area.

"Local citizens and governments are actively involved in watershed planning in the Dungeness watershed," Locke said. "I believe that the success we see in the watershed illustrates exactly the type of effort we need in other areas of Washington."

The Director's Citation Award recognizes the efforts of an individual, group or organization to:

- Promote the work or public understanding of the state Department of Agriculture or agriculture in general.
- Provide for continued enhancement of the agency, an agency division, or agriculture in general.
- Develop or enrich a program to educate others or more effectively explain the goals of a program or agricultural activity.

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